

I'm Teresa Brash and I'm here with Richard Dubé he wrote the book The Haven and this is great because for one thing we've got literature coming out of Sudbury and for another thing it's well written and for the third thing it tells of an interesting story that we should all be aware of the other side of society that is kept away from the general population so Richard tell us a little bit about your book

[00:25] Well, what would you like to know exactly? What can I talk to you about? Okay. What I found interesting about your book is that you have an interesting style, that you are showing us sections where you have backflashes, sections where you have fantasies.

[00:42] And it's interestingly put between moments of either terror or anger that was going on in your life. Okay. And it was at various penitentiaries in the province, correct? That's right. Right. Yeah. Well, that's good. The flashbacks that you read about and the fantasies, I think, are interesting.

[01:09] They've never been really addressed in some of the other books that I'd read about personal life in that. And I think for obvious reasons, the guys were embarrassed to talk about it. But I haven't read a little bit about penology and things like that. I know that there are common symptoms. People don't like to talk about it. The administrators of the system certainly don't want to mention it because it's scary as hell to know that in society we're doing that to young people in prison. But I thought, if I'm going to write an autobiography

[01:39] shame on me, but I'm just going to tell it the way it is. Is that shameful, to be honest? I mean, the irony in that is just unbelievable. If we were all criminals of our conscience, how many people out there are guilty? Well, I'm going to render the verdict of guilt against society as a whole, because if anybody condones this kind of stuff, there's something wrong with us. How can we allow that to go on? What kind of stuff are you talking about? Well, I think the...

[02:10] I think what Michael Jackson, the professor, had termed cruel and unusual punishment, I think. They talk a lot about the reforms in the prison system, but I failed to see those when I was there. I was in a particularly model inmate, but they crossed the line, I think, when they

[02:29] when they gas you and they beat you and they shackle you and leave you stripped naked in a hole on a cold, wet floor for three days, tied like a dog. You have to drink out of toilet bowls. I think there's a certain line at the core. Here we shouldn't cross with anybody. It doesn't help the cause of rehabilitation. It's pure, brutal punishment. It's humiliation as opposed to

[02:56] correction as they claim is this a way um is this something that society obviously they don't know about it but the the screws as you call them they are they are a few of them gaining pleasure out of it are a few of them following orders or how is that done i think it's like a political party in ottawa they follow the party line you know and they have their uh their own uh how would you say

[03:21] theory of office or brainwashing when you go into the system that you know the little idealists that come out of law and security and law and justice and end up in the prison system they're going to find out that the theory and practical uh they don't match up you know so the old guard is there and they dominate and

[03:41] There's something that happens to them, these good kids in school here, when they become screws. There's something that changes within them. There's a certain psychology involved in the person who does get involved in, say, shackling inmates or treating them badly. Would you say that maybe they could use some rehabilitation as well? They need... Yeah, they need some rehabilitation for sure, yeah. They need something, you know, and they...

[04:11] It's just a bad mix in there. It's like you're at war with your enemy. We're at war, and you go into their camp. You go into their trenches, and you're not armed. And they have years and years of pent-up anger towards you because you killed their family or something. And they're anything but compassionate and fair in there. It's just...

[04:40] It's when you got all this power and you're not accountable to anybody, you know, and you're in there with people who are being abusive, the cons are abusive towards them too, you know what I mean? But they don't have the muscle in there to really win the battle. Right. And so what you're going to do is you're going to, ultimately you're going to get mad as a screw or a guard and you're going to retaliate.

[05:06] And the guy's going to retaliate. And it's like an escalating cycle of violence that the con could never win. But he'll never yield and give up. So he'll just get angrier and angrier because he's going to get beat more and more. And the guy's going to say, we're going to break him. We're going to break him. Well, the guy's not breaking. He's just getting crazier and madder. And then you let him go.

[05:29] I see. Built up and then you let him go like that so he's not rehabilitated. He's actually trained to go into another battle. Well, yeah, I am. So now you say it's a battle and the Khans have like no, not as much power, obviously. Would you say there's an abuse of power by certain people or?

[05:56] Yeah, it starts when the guy's born basically almost because who goes to jail?

[06:02] It's the poor, the disenfranchised, the marginalized, right? So they've been abused and neglected by society as a whole, you know what I mean? And then they end up in the prison system, and they're abused there some more. So they're the helpless, really. They're defenseless people. They're not the rich, the powerful, and the guys with the say. You know what I mean? We're always depicted as, oh, the bad guys, tough guys. But really, when you look at the power differentials, we know who has the power.

[06:29] It's not these guys. They're good fodder for the system. They're good to pick on, piss off, and they're good to win political campaigns. But, I mean, they're not the real risk. I mean, certain guys are very dangerous and violent, but, I mean, a lot of them are rendered that way in the system. You know, there's no question about that. Nobody's born a killer. You know, Paul Bundy and Jeffrey Dahmer, you know, they're very rare. But when you come out, I know myself,

[06:57] Going in there, I was just a kid. I killed someone by accident. But going through that system, it was just brutal. You did have an accident with somebody. It could happen to anybody, really. This doesn't matter who or where you're from. It could happen to anybody that you could have an accident. And you were given a heavy sentence for that, I think.

[07:17] A fair. A fair sentence. Yeah, I get it. Yeah, I like fairness because I think I had to pay for what I did. Otherwise, I wouldn't have slept good. You know, you got to understand that's quite heavy. Did the system actually help you resolve issues you had with yourself with creating this accident? No, no, they can't. How could they? You know, I wish they would have been, you know...

[07:40] the environment conducive to so I could talk to people and trust people and try to sort things out and try to understand, you know. But now I understand. But then it was like... So all the time that you were serving your time, you didn't get any kind of therapy or counseling or anything like that? Well, when I first committed the offense, I went to prison and I was placed in solitary for four months.

[08:10] I hadn't committed any offense in prison, so I'm wondering, well, what am I doing in solitary? Right. So when you come out, when you've seen the freedom, when you could buy chocolate ice cream anytime you want, anywhere, is that when it came to you, some kind of conclusion or resolution, or how did it help you come around to what happened to you? I don't understand what you mean.

[08:38] Well, you say that you feel a little bit more at peace with yourself with what happened when you accidentally killed somebody, and you couldn't find that resolution inside of jail. How did you find that outside of jail, that kind of conclusion to what happened to you, or have you reached that? I mean, I can...

[09:01] I can examine the social aspect of what happened and understand the dynamics like that. Personally, being high risk and being involved in those situations, I could see how all the elements were there for something tragic to happen. But to have personal closure and full acceptance and

[09:27] And like, you can't, no, you can't get that. That's not going to happen, I don't think. You don't think for you it's going to happen? No, no, because you can't, no, I don't think so. How do you do that? Like, really, you know? Mm-hmm. Because they...

[09:44] The harm on the other side is irreparable. It's permanent. It's fatal. It's, you know, it's forever, right? That's right. So it's got to be, I think, when you look at the balance, maybe it should be like that for me too that way. I see. I see. So actually, you really, you don't feel like you could come to resolve all of that over. And you've heard of Native Healing Circles. Have you heard of that or?

[10:12] Yeah, yeah, I've seen them, I've participated in, well, more like just the circles there a little bit, and I've done a little bit of that, but no, I'm not, I think my brand of spirituality is non-denominational, it's very personal and private, and I kind of like, I kind of shy away from that, because particularly at the level of press, because the last thing you want is a Bible thumping, like religious fanatic talking to kids, and

[10:43] Because you're not going to help a lot of people that way. You're going to turn them off right away. I think the best way to help the kids straighten out is to let them find their own path. So you can't go in there with one already established. And what you're talking about is the work that you do now. You talk to kids in schools.

[11:01] Not a lot lately. I've taken a break. Yeah, it's pretty heavy, eh? Well, yeah, it is. It gets to be a little much. So I had to take a rest, you know, write the book, and hopefully, you know, I can go out and do some elsewhere because I've saturated the community here. I think they're tired of hearing me, actually. I don't know. Do you think so? I don't know. I doubt that. Sudbury has growing social problems, and in Sudbury alone we have the...

[11:28] higher rate per capita of AIDS in Toronto. I don't know if you're aware of that statistic. That tells me that there's a lot of needle drug use and a lot of people who need to be informed and educated on needle exchange programs and condom use, things like that.

[11:46] I don't think they're going to get that at the local jail here. I mean, they don't have any programs there at all, you know. They just lock you up in a cell and tell you to shut your mouth and we'll get you up to court in time there if you behave. Is it that they don't care or is it that they don't have the people to do this kind of talking, mentoring, counseling in the jails itself or is it that they just, like I said, don't care?

[12:13] No, they don't care because I've offered to go in there and talk to the kids often. Often. And no dice. So what other conclusion do you come to? You've got the room. The physical resources are there. The desks are there. And we walk in there and you tell us you've got school going on. We know that's all lies. I think you've got to start getting honest in there at the jail and say, come on now.

[12:38] Really, we're not doing anything. Let's do something, really. But they're not interested in that right now. I don't know why. Well, I wish I did know myself. I think there's a general prevailing attitude now towards the right-wing government to say to anyone who has any offense, any criminal offense or anything like that, that you deserve it. What do you say to that?

[13:06] Yeah, good, thanks. It's okay. Yeah. Like, you know, because I don't cry. I'm not going to cry over it. You know, I'm okay. I can take whatever they dish out. Like, you're never going to break this kid or anything like that. But I think what you're going to do is you're going to end up with kids that are going to come out and kill people. You know what I mean? So if we're going to let the government run things, then we're really stupid, really. And look at the mess they're making. I think people got to empower themselves and take control of their own destiny here a little bit and say, listen,

[13:35] We've got to do something for our own sake, for our own kids, for our own life, you know? Okay. Yeah. What do you think about these privatized jails that they want to bring in? I don't know. I got my buddy in one of them right now, and he says that it's basically a nice big parking lot. You've got no programs, no recreation. He's just locked up almost all the time, and so I wonder what...

[13:59] And the treatment, what is the treatment like there? Does he comment on that at all? Yeah, he does. It's just, it's really huge, he says. You know, there are like, I don't know, hundreds and hundreds of guys. It's a new jail near Monteith. Mm-hmm. They don't do anything there. Like, he's not doing anything. He's just waiting. Waiting. Waiting and waiting. Waiting. Yeah, so...

[14:25] Did you or does your friend ever have access to chaplaincy services? It depends. I think it depends where you are, you know. I mean, when I was in prison, chaplaincy services wasn't high on the agenda. Really, you know, I think I was so busy fighting and reacting to everything around me there.

[14:47] that uh in mel haven i don't remember any anybody coming to me and say hey why don't you come to aa or hey why don't you come to chaplain services or hey why don't you come to anger management like it was not it's not like that you know what i mean like you're in there and you you're you're you're living in a whole different kind of community you know and this is a community that not everyone is aware of unless you've been through the system yeah well they're just a bunch of just a bunch of guys that committed crimes you know

[15:15] Some were armed robbers, and some of them killed people in a crime of fashion. Some of them were your contract killers. I mean, the mobsters, you know. But some of them were just like...

[15:25] guys that had property offenses, but they had lots of them. So you have quite a various mix of personalities there. But they have one thing in common. Once you go into a place like Melhaven, it has a mentality of its own, and you have to adopt the killer-be-killed mentality. And that's the really sad part of it. Why, by virtue of walking into Melhaven, do you all of a sudden have to become a killer? And if you don't, you risk being taken out in a casket. I mean, it's really sad, but

[15:56] How do you deal with something like that? Okay, so it's so in your face and this is the way it is. I think probably might be, if I was in your shoes, it'd be scary to me to know that nobody outside of here knows what's going on. Is that something you think about too sometimes?

[16:14] Yeah, because when you're in there and you're subject to that kind of lifestyle and environment, it has a very bad effect on your mind. I mean, you're fighting with the guys and you're fighting with the guards. And then you say, well, how come nobody's intervening? How come there's nobody mediating these disputes here? How come there's nobody really taking an interest in what's going on behind here? Because this is totally unreal. Like, really unreal. And you go, well, you know what? Nobody gives a shit.

[16:42] So neither do I. I see, and that's what keeps your spirits up to fight, actually, is that if nobody cares, then I don't care. Oh, yeah, I don't care. And you've got yours coming now, too. I'm just getting ready here. These battle wounds are just toughening me up. All right. You wait till I come out. You're going to pay a price, and it's going to be a heavy one, too. What would you like to see changed or improved? The list is long.

[17:10] Is it long? Could you name your top three? Well, I really think that, no, no, no, I can't because it's almost got to be at the, like right at the top level. You know, it's right at the top level. Like it's right at the premier's office.

[17:30] Everything, all the policies start there and they trickle down to the Justice Minister, right? They've got these little policy makers up there. They're right out of touch with reality, right? They don't come from our social class anyways, you know what I mean? So I think you need to have the

participation of the people, the consumers of the system, if you wish, of the penitentiary system, going in there with those policy makers and making decisions along with them.

[17:53] And say, hey, we're the ones that are using the system, you know. The public is the one that's funding it. So give us some feedback. We'll tell you what we need because you're not giving it. We don't need sticks and batons and gas and chains. We're used to that. Show us something we don't know, you know. Yeah, what would that be? Yeah, compassion, understanding, cooperation, good programs, understanding, you know, some help. They need some help, these guys. Mm-hmm.

[18:22] So do the girls. I mean, the gals need some help, too. Yes. You know? Yeah. Now, you were suggesting in your book that the beginning of all these things are... Well, you're saying social class, and in a social class, a lower social class, as the society would call it. Some may call it a higher in other societies. I think it's all your perspective. Sure. But in some social classes, there's more prevalent use of alcohol and drugs, do you think? Well...

[18:52] Yes and no. I think that we're targeted more for law enforcement and enforcement and things like that. But no, you have your alcoholism is not a respect to your class and gender and that is, you know, you know.

[19:07] So no, I think we're just, we're high profile and we're good fodder. They know that we're... But what we all know, I mean, what the logical explanation is why you're more looked at by the police is, is it what, because you have no money? I mean, to be penalized by a society that you have no money, it just does not seem ethical at all. Well...

[19:35] Maybe that's what pisses people off. Yeah. You know? I mean, a lot of the guys that are in prison may not be able to articulate the dynamics of the social injustices, but they know them and they feel the oppression, you know? And they have all those screws and those coppers, you know?

[19:53] He didn't touch Frankie up on Snob Hill there when I was with Frankie. They let him go scot-free. But meanwhile, I'm here. I'm doing the dime. That's not fair. I'll take it. I'll take my lumps. Do you think it's society on a whole maybe? Because society does control the work of the police as well.

[20:12] Oh, yeah, I'd like to see that. I'd like to see that. I think we're seeing sometimes the worst in people. We'd like to see the best. I mean, there's a lot of people doing great work out there to alleviate these kind of problems and these social inequalities. But I think that on a whole, the consciousness of the general population is what I don't care or...

[20:34] No, because like any society, you have various forces, various currents. I mean, you have the good left-wingers, and you've got your hard right-wingers, and the pendulum will swing back and forth. But the battle being waged up at the, like I said, up at the tables where decisions are made, are all from the upper crust. And that's where everything is handed down from there and controlled from there. And so we've given that power to these people. Would you be able to say that this is an unjust society?

[21:07] Just the administrative and operational reality is unjust. I think some of the policies may have some merit and good, I guess it looks good on the front, the trimming and the embellishments, but it's

never translated into reality because within the prison, within just the prison, and I'm just going to focus on within the carceral environment that whatever happens in there,

[21:38] How would you say? It's impenetrable. It's impenetrable. You can't go in there and affect any changes. The laws in there are immutable. The mentality in there is pervasive and it's the way it is. That's the way it's been for hundreds of years and we're not changing. You can bring in policy, guidelines, directives, all you want.

[22:01] we're not translating it we're going to maintain control and we're going to have a subsection to your assumption and say notwithstanding the aforementioned we still have the right to do this and you know what they let them do it so meanwhile guys are being sent to segregation for six months two years in solitary for suspicion of something okay due process rule of law forget it it doesn't operate at this level we run the show

[22:28] You've given us care and control of these guys, and we plan on keeping it. So you're saying that besides the justice system that we see in everyday society, there's another separate justice system inside of the penitentiary that is not actually just at all, is it?

[22:45] That's right. It's like if you're charged with something and Mr. Bronfman's son is charged with something, you look at the Criminal Code of Canada and it's going to be interpreted different for you and for him. So you're saying it has to do with your money, the way you look perhaps? Discretion. A lot of discretion, a lot of arbitrary decision making. No accountability at all. And nobody can enforce anything. If the prison system says we're doing it this way and we're doing that, nobody can tell them otherwise.

[23:14] to change their mind or to stop it. Where's redress? I remember I was in a prison at Melhaven and I'd submitted a writ of habeas corpus because I'd done five months and then they were making me do it again. And I said, okay, okay, well, hold on. You can't do that there, guys. Let's try to keep it fair. I said, I'll do my time. I said, we've got to be fair here, guys. So I tried to submit a writ.

[23:39] They threw me in solitary confinement, and they shipped me out of the province, you know? So they fight. They fight dirty, but they have the power. So what's a guy going to do? What I don't understand is what are they getting out of it if they are doing this? What do you think they're getting out of it, these people who run the penitentiaries? Business. I'm coming back. I'm coming back.

[24:01] And their narrow-minded, stereotypical image of me is reinforced. And then they go to the public and say, see, see, see, they are bad, these guys. See, they are crazy. That's why we've got to treat them rough. It's a vicious cycle. And it's business. So then they build their bigger prisons. Then they can hire more staff for regional programs, which are a bunch of big shams. And then they build this whole infrastructure and this whole military corporate structure for themselves at the expense of the poor. I mean, that's what's going on.

[24:32] Yeah, let's get back to this topic of drugs and alcohol. You were mentioning that some people get on a bad track starting by smoking pot or drinking too much. Yes. What do you think about, right now there's discussions about legalizing marijuana. What do you think about something like that? All good for

them. Plus, yeah, less business for those guys. I'm game for anything less business for those guys, I'm game.

[25:01] But, I mean, I don't know. I don't know a lot about that. And those guys are what, the dealers? No, no, the police. Oh, the police. They're close, though. They're close. They're almost the same. They're dealing something different, though. No, I don't have too many opinions on the pot and that because, like, I'm an abstainer and that, right? So I believe in being clean and sober and that, so. Mm-hmm.

[25:26] I mean, let the scientists and the scholar debate that. Okay, but you were also addressing it in your book, and it is, you know, some believe that, say, pot or drinking is the beginning of further things down the road, but it's not for everybody. I mean, it doesn't necessarily mean you're going to go that direction. For some it does. Do you think it's something in your body that makes you want to drink more or makes you want to do drugs or...

[25:56] Both. I think you're going to sicken your body if you abuse it. And it depends who you're around and what you're around. That's very important. So I was around a bunch of party animals when I was a kid, and that's the way we lived.

[26:17] Well, go ahead. What do you got there? What are you looking at there? I'm looking at some of these selections in your book here. Now, what kind of hope can we offer the future to children, right? I mean, this is, I think we're living in a more and more scary age. That's my personal opinion, but I like this line, okay? I already discussed it with you earlier. They'd have me working as a grocery clerk when I'm bilingual and university-educated.

[26:43] Yeah, well, that was taken in the context of just getting out of prison. I had just come out. I had done about my last four months in solitary confinement in Melhaven, and he let me out on the street. And now I've got to go find a job, and I'm finding out what it's like to be stigmatized, you know, and ostracized, you see. And so I'm going to apply for these jobs, and I'm culturally illiterate. I can't communicate, okay? I can't communicate with anybody. You're doing a pretty good job now. Yeah, well, that's like, all right, fast forward 20 years, right?

[27:10] But at that time you couldn't converse too well. No, not at all. What am I going to talk about? My latest trip to hell? I mean, these guys are talking about your trip to Bahamas and your trips down to Florida, right? What am I going to talk about? Somewhere deep inside comes the thought that if hell and evil exist, there must be something like heaven and goodness. You were praying at one point, or many points actually.

[27:37] Yeah, well, a couple of points. A couple of points, yeah. So you felt like you were in hell? Yeah, I was there. Yeah, I was there. Yeah, there's no question. And so I was able to somehow, you know, I think my faith when I was a kid, you know, I had a little bit there, my family were Roman Catholic, and then I think it somehow

[28:00] The vestige of that came to the surface there when I needed it most because I was right at the brink of doing something very, very serious, you know. So I'm here today talking to you and writing that



book in spite of the system, in spite of, you know. So would you say that now that's what the common public wants to know, are you reformed now?

[28:23] Oh, no. Oh, no, no, no, no. That doesn't happen. Because, of course, I'm going to ask you, like, I reformed to what? Like, what was I? Like, what was I before? You know what I mean? What do you feel you were? I was messed up. I was messed up on booze and drugs, and I got caught up in a system that's vicious with a mentality that's befitting henchmen, really. And so I got sucked into that.

[28:52] terrible destructive lifestyle and and I'm out here trying to put the pieces together right and trying to find out who I can be now you know in light of everything that I've been through because I can never be who you know who I was going to be without passing through that experience you know so now I got to find out who I'm going to be you know because you're going to people are going to respond to me different really now because of where I've been and and who I am and stuff and you've come public with this book

[29:21] Yeah, I mean, hey, I got nothing to hide now. I mean, because they're going to find out anyways. It's not that I want to professionalize my ex-status anyway because that's going to happen on its own. People are going to do that anyways because they're going to need a label, a handle on me, right? So that's Richie Dubé, the ex-con, right? Yeah. And even in the newspapers, you know, ex-con publishes book. Well, why did they say, well, Richard Dubé, a local boy, published a book? Why is he ex-con? Do you know why?

[29:51] Labeling, right? Yeah, but why? Yeah. So why is that? I think people need something to identify with when a story comes out. And I think, you know, probably the editors use that to identify it. But...

[30:06] That's what it is. I think there's some kind of glamour attached to the word ex-con as well as negative things. It's sort of a love-hate relationship. I mean, we see in the Hollywood movies all the time, you know, fancy stars playing gangsters or whatever. It is glamourized. I mean, you have to admit that. But in your eyes, it's not glamour.

[30:28] No, no, for me, no, no, there's no glamour in it at all, no, because it's like, it's still the same brush, it's still the same kind of abuse and oppression, it doesn't stop, you know, really, from since you're a kid to now, it's the same thing. I mean, what if they said, stinking rich dude gets 20 years jail, that'd be a headliner.

[30:51] Yeah, we're not going to see that too often, though, I don't think. Well, maybe in the U.S. if these stock markets keep booming down. But what interests me is how you have these days. I wouldn't say you're reformed. I think you're Richard, just as we all have our own problems and hang-ups. Would you consider yourself, say, level-headed at this point? Do you feel comfortable with who you are?

[31:23] I was always, you see, I think I was always kind of mellow anyways. You know, I was always kind of mellow, but the booze discolored me and changed me and made me do things, you know, what I didn't want to do. But now I have to deal, I always have to deal with where I've been. I always have to kind of battle those demons all the time because

[31:43] It's irreparable damage. It's changed me forever, you see? Like those reveries sometimes. I still get those reveries sometimes. It's crazy, you know what I mean? Because I say, I don't want to hate these guys anymore. I just want to forget about it, you know? Just let it go. Big deal, you know what I mean? Time to move on, you know? And there that is, you know? And sometimes I think about stealing, you know what I mean? I say, why am I thinking about stealing, you know?

[32:09] So I think my best, strongest thing today is to be honest with myself and say, yeah, I could still steal. I could steal, like maybe fight and hurt somebody or something. But just take it one day at a time and say, well, today it's not going to happen. You know what I mean? It's just internal controls. I got a little more internal control. I'm a little older now and stuff like that.

[32:31] but it's like you've got to know your nature, you know. So you've got to be self-aware. Yeah, my nature. Do you think a lot of people who come out of the prison system are self-aware? Not at all. It takes a lot of work to get there, does it? Well, they don't. Number one, you have to acquire the will to care, you know what I mean, and the willingness to, you know, take a look inside and to manage the beast if you wish, you know what I mean, that are darker. Because I don't think I'm the only one that has it. I've talked to a lot of straights, and, you know, they have to...

[33:00] They've got to manage their own little demons too. But they have those internal controls. They've got the good moral guides in their life, and they've got all these good values in place, you see. But it's hard to get that. To cultivate that takes years. So actually you're a survivor of the prison system. Yeah, yeah. Not only that, just life in general, right? You're just trying to be normal there now. You know, an average dude, that's all. You've got many years ahead of you, I can see that.

[33:28] Well, yeah, we'll see what the doc says there. I'm going to go see him soon there. So we'll see what he has to say. You know, it's all up to him now, I think. Yeah. No, it's a lot to think about for some people. They would say, well, it's only been so many years. But those years, how did they feel like to you? The years out here? No, in prison. Because you feel like you have to get that time back. Is that right? Well, not now.

[33:56] No, not now. Not now, no. I wish it wasn't there, really. I wish it would have never happened. Really there? Because then you'd say, well,

[34:07] Who are you really? It would probably have been a nice, peaceful existence. And now you're left with the vestige of that broken vessel. It was traveling no seas for all those years. It's like brutal. So peace about that and acceptance about all that, I don't know if I can ever accept the status quo about it and what it does. Why should I?

[34:35] Because then I'll be guilty like everybody else here. Apathetic and let the abuses go on unabated. You know? I don't know. I don't think I want to let it go there that easy. Well, by writing this book, I think you're making a lot of people knowledgeable. It's called The Haven, A True Story of Life in the Whole.

[34:57] Your name is Richard Dube, and what I really like about this is the writing style in here. It seems like you had a lot to talk about, and you had to lay it out as methodically as possible. And you had some

help from some people. Who would those people be? Well, I have to thank Lawrence Stephen right off the hop. He's my man. He helped me take my heap of hate papers and transform them into a little bit of a novel that you have.

[35:27] and Patricia Anderson in the West Coast. She connected me with the big heavyweights here in the publishing world. These people showed me that not everybody has a hate on for the ex-con, that we should have a voice, that we have a place in the literary world, that we should be heard sometimes. The equation, everything should be balanced. Right. And you dedicate the book to Shari? Yes.

[35:54] My little share bear, right? Yeah. Solid right through all the time with me, you know. You know, starving artists, they don't have a lot of resources or a lot of money or stuff like that, and she was there with me the whole time, so let's hope we can sell the movie rights there and I'll take her out on a nice holiday. Yeah.

[36:12] Well, I have to say, the work of art that you call it is probably more valuable than the hours you would have spent working anywhere else financially. I think the value in this book will be passed on, hopefully, to other people inside and out of the prison system and to people who have the power to change these things and the power to actually help people empower themselves and make them come to terms with what's happened to them. Maybe some people...

[36:39] have come to the place that you have when they've left the prison system and just can't be honest with themselves either. Yeah, well, we hope it has an individual effect on those guys. I hope so. I thank you so much for coming in. It's so great of you to come all the way in here. My name is Teresa, and I hope you enjoyed this interview. Thanks. I did. Thanks.